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Czechs Charge Yank's a Spy

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Vienna, Nov. 18 (AP)—The Czechoslovak news agency CTK said today that

American travel agent Vladimir Kazan-Komarek had confessed to spying against Czechoslovakia before his arrest in Prague Oct. 31.

In his confession, CTK said, Kazan-Komarek "explained his activities, stated the circumstances under which he carried them out and described the persons who helped him."

CTK said Kazan-Komarek, a naturalized U.S. citizen, was "specially trained by a foreign intelligence service to organize anti-state activities on Czechoslovak territory."

The agency did not indicate

several illegal trips to the country.

The agency said that during the visits he "passed on coded intelligence reports to a Czechoslovak woman identified as Marie Hufova, who assured their transmission abroad."

CTK said there were 28 in the group and that they were arrested by Czechoslovak authorities.

CTK said Kazan-Komarek "succeeded in escaping abroad where he continued his activities against the state."



Vladimir Kazan-Komarek

what foreign intelligence service it referred to.

Kazan-Komarek, 42, was born in Czechoslovakia and operates the Harvard Travel Service in Cambridge, Mass. He was arrested in Prague when a Soviet Aeroflot plane stopped there on a flight from Moscow to Paris.

Kazan-Komarek was returning to the United States after attending an Intourist conference in Moscow and the flight was not scheduled to stop in Prague.

The Soviet government informed the U.S. Embassy in Moscow today that the aircraft was forced to land in Prague because of radar trouble.

CTK said Kazan-Komarek acted with a group in Czechoslovakia that smuggled Czechoslovaks to West Germany. CTK said Kazan-Komarek left Czechoslovakia in 1948, the year the Communists seized power, but later made



(UPI Telefoto)
Vladimir Kazan-Komarek's family in their Wellesley, Mass., home. They are (front l. to r.) Dorothy, 5; Mrs. Kazan-Komarek, holding Vladimir, 3, and Marie, 12, with Shiela the dachshund. In the rear are Donald, 8, and Renee, 7, with the cat, Abigail.